Mode of Transmission of HIV

995. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is on the verge of AIDS apidemic, in view of the fact that about two to five million people are infected with HIV;

(b) if so, what is the major made of transmission of HIV and which parts of the country are suffering most; and

(c) what preventive measures Government have taken or propose to take in this regard indicating budgetary provision made during 1997-98 as against 1996-97 and expenditure incurred till date on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir. While WHO currently estimates 2.5 Million infections in the Country, No. of HIV positive and AIDS cases reported to National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) as on 31.10.97 from its Surveillance Network throughout the Country are 67311 and 5002 respectively. The disease is highly prevalent in cartain pockets of the country.

(b) The Major mode of transmission is through sexual route and the States of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Manipur are most affected with 2451, 1092 and 286 AIDS cases respectively as on 31.10.97.

(c) With a World Bank credit of US $ 84 Million, a scheme for prevention and control of AIDS in India was launched in September, 1992 with formation of National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) at the Centre and State AIDS Cells at State/UTs. The main components of the programme include Management capacity for HIV control, public awareness and community support, Blood Safety and its rational use; surveillance and clinical management capacity and controlling Sexually Transmitted Diseases. As regards budgetary allocations and expenditure, position is as follows:

B.E. 1996-97	Rs.141 Crores
B.E. 1997-98	Rs.100 Crores
Expenditure (upto 31.10.97)	Rs.58 Crores

Supply of Fungus-Infected medicines by the Unani Branch of CGHS

996. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's acttention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Pioneer, dated September 15, 1997 about several cases of fungus-infected medicines being supplied by the Unani branch of the CGHS;

(a) if so, the reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that these drugs have been purchased from the firms which were blacklisted for selling contaminated medicines to the CGHS more than once;

(d) whether Government have conducted any inquiry and punished the guilty; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to prevent such occurrence in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) The matter is being looked into.

(e) Instructions have been issued to the dispensaries/units to be more careful in future.

Deaths due to rat-borne disease in South Gujarat

997. PROF. RAM KAPSE:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some persons were reported to have died of